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Chamkanni Tribe

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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Program for Culture and Conflict Studies

CHAMKANNI TRIBE

The Program for Culture & Conflict Studies

Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, CA

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PRIMARY LOCATION

The Chamkanni Tribe primarily lives in the Kurram Agency. They are located near the Thabai and Awi Darras, in the Kharmana Valley, and near the Karman Darra on the north slopes of the Sika Ram Ridge. Their neighbors are the Afridis on the east, the Orakzais on the east and southeast, and the Turis on the west and southwest. The Safid Kuh Range composes the boundary on the north, beyond which lies the country of the Shinwaris.

MAJOR TOWNS

- Sam Khatak
- Sirak (Serak)

KEY TERRAIN FEATURES

Valleys: Kharmana

Mountains: Sika Ram Range, Safid Kuh Range

Rivers: Thabai Darra, Awi Darra, Karman Darra

WEATHER

The climate in the region is hot in summer, with high temperatures around 105 degrees Fahrenheit, and cool in winter, with low temperatures around 33 degrees Fahrenheit. There is modest rainfall in July and August and in January and February, with snowfall at higher elevations.

RELIGION/SECT

The Chamkanni Tribe are of the Hanafi sect of Sunni Islam, with the exception of the Budha Khel, who are Shia.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Chamkanni Tribe is not to be confused with a group called the Chamkannis who claim to be a branch of the Suleman Khel Ghilzais and live in the districts of the Karaia and Chamkanni in Afghanistan.¹

This tribe claims origins from the Sarbani Pashtuns. They immigrated to Peshawar in the sixteenth century, from which they moved west to join with the Khattaks in Waziristan before moving up through the Kurram Valley and into the Kharmana Valley.

The Budha Khel clan are Shia and live in the Budhakki in the Kurman Valley of Kurram. They are closely allied with the Turi, who are another Shia tribe.

¹ Sir Olaf Caroe, The Pathans, Government of India Press, New Delhi, 1938.

